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Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/198 of 21 December 2001, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on, inter alia, measures taken for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and in response to General Assembly resolution 55/203 of 20 December 2000, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development.

The report gives an account of ongoing activities and new measures taken by agencies of the United Nations system, national Governments and regional organizations for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and assesses the progress made in promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development. The report concludes with suggestions on how to improve the further implementation of the Programme of Action, keeping in mind the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

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I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/198 of 21 December 2001, entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", in which it, inter alia: (a) invited the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[1] in their programmes; (b) urged all relevant organizations to finalize, as a matter of urgency, the work on the development of a vulnerability index, taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of small island developing States; (c) called upon the Secretary-General to consider cost-effective ways and means of increasing and improving the United Nations system-wide coordination and dissemination of information on activities in support of small island developing States and the Programme of Action.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/203 of 20 December 2000, entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development", in which it, inter alia: (a) called upon the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste; (b) called upon all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation; and (c) called upon all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

4. In the preparation of the present report, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including relevant regional commissions, were approached for submissions of updated accounts of activities undertaken in the context of the Programme of Action and the promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area. A number of those organizations responded, providing brief reports of activities since 2001; their submissions served as the sole source of information on their activities for that period.

5. The present report also includes information on activities undertaken at the regional level under the Programme of Action by non-United Nations intergovernmental regional bodies and by a number of Governments at the national level.

II. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

6. During the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, special consideration was given to small island developing States in the Chairman's paper. The Singapore Declaration of the Alliance of Small Island States Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit also reaffirmed the objectives and

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

commitments of the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which called for renewed efforts to achieve its full implementation. In this regard, many agencies of the United Nations system and Governments and other institutions have continued to assist small island developing States in their developmental efforts. An account of activities undertaken is given below.

A. International level

1. Capacity-building

7. During the reporting period, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat continued to host the Small Island Developing States Network. Phase II of this project is currently under way, its main objective being to enhance the Network's regional presence and capacity-building. In this regard, the Government of France is funding a focal point for the Indian Ocean region. Two other focal points, for the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, respectively, will be financed through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In addition, the Department, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, continues to be an active partner in the capacity development initiatives of the Alliance of Small Island States. In this context, the Department has actively supported the Alliance's Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Singapore in January 2002.

2. Climate change and sea level rise

8. In this area, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), organized workshops on the regional impact of climate change, in order to provide Caribbean small island developing States with accurate information on climate change and variability and to provide guidance on adaptation. A policy document was developed and the report entitled "Climate change in the Caribbean and the challenge of adaptation" will be published in 2002.

3. Natural and environmental disasters

9. Natural disasters, such as tropical cyclones, are recurring phenomena in small island developing States regions and have potentially disastrous impacts, as one single natural disaster alone can undermine years of economic development. Means of crucial long-term preventive measures include, in particular, effective warning and preparedness systems. The World Meteorological Organization continued to assist the efforts of small island developing States to apply and implement those disaster-reduction and response measures through its tropical cyclone programmes. The programmes focus mainly on capacity-building through regular training, seminars and workshops with respect to improved warning and response strategies. In the Caribbean, most recent improvements have been made to replace communication links vulnerable to tropical cyclones with a satellite-based communication system.

10. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has engaged in a global review of disaster-reduction initiatives and trends. Both the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency elaborated reports on institutional capacities, risk assessment, status of early warning dissemination and public awareness to deal with disaster management and vulnerability reduction.

4. Management of wastes

11. In the field of waste management, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization continues to deliver assistance to small island developing States in the areas of industrial policy support, preventive measures through cleaner production and related technologies, and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in order to reduce the amount of waste from land-based activities that affect the most productive areas of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters.

5. Coastal and marine resources

12. Under this priority area, UNEP, through its Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities Coordination Office, is working with several small island developing States on the implementation of the Programme. Multi-stakeholder regional meetings were organized jointly by the Regional Seas secretariats and

UNEP regional offices, to further implement the United Nations Environment Programme/World Health Organization/United Nations Human Settlements Programme/Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater. As part of the Global Plan of Action Clearing-House Mechanism, regional nodes are being developed both in the Caribbean and in the South Pacific regions. Through the International Coral Reef Action Network, UNEP is also working with a number of small island developing States to improve local coral reef protection and management, with community involvement wherever possible. A project addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean, in which a number of small island developing States are slated to participate is currently in the final stage of preparation and the project "Development and protection of the coastal and marine environment in sub-Saharan Africa" is ongoing with the participation of, inter alia, Mauritius and Seychelles.

6. Freshwater resources

13. In this area, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the cooperation of the Government of the Netherlands, has fielded a water specialist in support of the water programme of SOPAC.

14. UNEP is promoting the adoption and use of rainwater harvesting, empowering women to manage water resources, and the use of renewable energy through a two-year pilot project on empowering women in rainwater harvesting in the Pacific atoll which is being implemented by SOPAC. Furthermore, UNEP/GEF is strengthening the response of small island developing States to global environmental challenges primarily through its International Waters portfolio.

7. Land resources

15. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) initiated a Participatory Smallholder Agriculture and Artisanal Fisheries Development Programme on the islands of Sao Tome and Principe in 2001 which was co-financed by the Government of France. The programme is aimed at some 41 per cent of the population of Sao Tome, including smallholder families and fishermen, assisting them in improving market access and diversification through, inter alia, rural sector services, including decentralized financial services, agriculture extension and coastal fisheries management. In Grenada, the International Fund provides assistance through the Rural Enterprise Project (co-financed by the Caribbean Development Bank) to at least 3,000 households operating agricultural smallholdings or microenterprises. Further assistance will be provided in the form of project investments, training in design and production techniques, safety, health and handling, and gaining improved market access. The project, which has a gender-equity approach, should lead to greater employment opportunities and higher productivity in the agricultural sector, positively affecting household food security and improving nutrition through, among other things, improved processing technologies and livestock development measures. Further ongoing programmes aim at the alleviation of rural poverty, supporting smallholders, and rural development in a number of small island developing States, such as Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros, Dominica, Guyana, Maldives, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe and Saint Lucia.

8. Energy resources

16. During the reporting period, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to carry out technical cooperation projects in various small island developing States in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. A compilation of success stories related to, inter alia, energy matters is currently under way and will be published on the Small Island Developing States Network web page upon completion.

9. Tourism resources

17. Within the framework of the International Year of Ecotourism, 2002, the World Tourism Organization organized three conferences on ecotourism in 2001. A conference specially designated to the Sustainable Development and Management of Ecotourism in Small Island Developing States and other islands held in Seychelles presented four thematic areas, policies and planning, regulation, marketing and promotion and monitoring of ecotourism activities, to participants from public, private and non-governmental organization sectors, as well as local communities. The World Tourism Organization Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development of Ecotourism, hosted by Maldives, served to disseminate best practices throughout public, private, non-governmental organizations and academic sectors and

local communities. In April 2002, a regional Conference on Sustainable Development of Ecotourism in the South Pacific Islands was held in Fiji.

18. The development of sustainable tourism policies and guidelines is of crucial importance to small island developing States, as tourism is one of the major income sources of such countries. In this context, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) assisted selected small island developing States at various conferences in their preparations for specific policy issues, such as tourism. The high-level meeting on tourism in least developed countries held in Gran Canaria in March 2001, jointly organized by UNCTAD and the World Tourism Organization, with funding from the Government of Spain, was of particular interest to small island developing States. The outcome, the "Canary Islands Declaration on Tourism in the Least Developed Countries" and an associated plan of action were presented in the segment on international trade, commodities and tourism of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

10. Biodiversity resources

19. In this area, UNEP coordinated the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/UNEP regional project Caribbean Environment, with involvement of the private sector, in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative. The aim of the project was to promote sustainable tourism practices through integrated coastal area management, best management practices in water and solid waste treatment and siting and design of tourist facilities.

20. Following the most recent meeting of the subsidiary body of the Convention on Biodiversity, a pilot project was launched to assess the impact of invasive alien species in small islands and an initiative on the development of rapid assessment methodologies is being carried out in cooperation with small island developing States.

11. National institutions and administrative capacity

21. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization continues to execute a wide range of programmes designed to improve the governance, management and performance of industry in small island developing States, in order to reduce the environmental impacts globally.

22. During the reporting period, UNEP convened two regional symposiums on the judiciary's role in promoting sustainable development in both the Caribbean and the South Pacific region. The main objectives of these symposiums were to: (a) examine developments in the field of environmental law and their implications for promoting the goals of environment and development; (b) review the role that courts of law have played in strengthening environmental law and in promoting compliance and enforcement; and (c) develop and implement follow-up activities to enhance networking and access to information and material on environmental law.

12. Transport and communication

23. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has continued its efforts to improve transport services and facilities in small island developing States with special emphasis on safety measures, as well as environmental protection based on sustainable, energy-efficient and low-cost transportation solutions. ICAO work encompasses, in particular, regular information dissemination regarding the development and application of relevant international policy guidelines and norms and standards through training and expert workshops. Technical cooperation projects are currently being implemented in Bahamas, Barbados, Cape Verde, Cuba, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Maldives, Sao Tome and Principe and Trinidad and Tobago. All support by ICAO is aimed at improving the sustainable economic and social development of small island developing States, in particular through the enhancement of the air transport sector, based on sustainable principles. In addition, several workshops and seminars were held. These include: a workshop on airports and route facility management for the Americas and the Caribbean, held in Montreal on 15 and 16 April 2002; a seminar on aviation security for the Asia/Pacific region, held in Hong Kong from 27 to 31 May 2002; and a statistics workshop for the Asia/Pacific region, held in Bangkok from 19 to 23 August 2002.

13. Vulnerability index

24. Organizations are still concentrating their efforts on collecting relevant data on different criteria or aspects of vulnerability. The work of UNEP, for

example, has focused on providing support to the development of an Environmental vulnerability index that is robust, operational and provides a relatively quick and inexpensive way of characterizing the vulnerability of natural systems, while taking into consideration the special characteristics of small island developing States. In 2001, UNEP and the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission held an International Expert Group Meeting on the environmental vulnerability index to facilitate the collection of data from a global suite of countries in order to test the index.

25. UNCTAD continued to pay particular attention to the vulnerability of least developed small island developing States in an exercise aimed at assisting the Committee for Development Policy and the Economic and Social Council in their consideration of the situation of the least developed countries vis-à-vis the thresholds of graduation from least developed country status.

26. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), through its Risk and Disaster Section, is presently developing a vulnerability assessment tool targeted at local authorities and national Governments. The tool is currently being tested in several countries of South-East Asia and its application will be introduced in the Caribbean region in 2003. The testing and developing of such a tool will include the eventual production of vulnerability indicators for national action and international monitoring. It is also envisaged that such inputs will contribute to the UN-Habitat's aim of developing a good urban governance index that could be compatible with other indexes, including a vulnerability index that takes into account the particular needs of small island developing States.

27. The South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission continued its efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of environmental vulnerability of small island developing States through its work on the further refinement and development of an environmental vulnerability index covering all Pacific countries. Environmental vulnerability profiles are being compiled for all its member countries and there is an increasing interest by countries beyond small island developing States to get involved. Progress to date has been achieved with regard to improved international awareness of the environmental vulnerability index through regular presentations at key regional and international forums, as well as several newly published documents, including progress reports that have been widely distributed. Two new environmental vulnerability index databases have been established: a country-focused global database and an indicator-focused database. However, of 32 target countries, minimal data have been collected for only half, owing to limited availability of country data.

14. Trade

28. The European Commission has reported that the Cotonou negotiations for the setting of a new trading arrangement based on the establishment of "economic partnership agreements" will start by September 2002 and enter into force by 1 January 2008. They will include a 12-year transitional period for the liberalization of trade in terms of reciprocity and will lead to a regime that is fully compatible with the World Trade Organization.

29. During the reporting period, UNCTAD assisted small island developing States in formulating policies and preparations for negotiations dealing with economic liberalization and globalization issues at several recent international conferences. The support was aimed at either to increase small island developing States competitiveness of existing policies, or to seize new trade benefits and opportunities. UNCTAD had been helping small island developing States in their preparations for the World Trade Organization negotiations to be held in Doha in 2001 through technical expertise by formulating requests for issue-specific trade concessions, in particular in the agriculture sector, and increasing awareness of small island developing States vulnerabilities.

15. Implementation, monitoring and review

30. With regard to the monitoring and review of the development of small island developing States, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in which it established the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The functions of the Office are contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of

Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/56/645, para. 17).

B. Regional level

1. African region

31. The Indian Ocean Commission reported a number of activities and projects relating to several chapters of the Programme of Action: in the area of climate change, the Commission contributed to the project on climate change and sea level monitoring, assisting Indian Ocean Commission countries in completing their greenhouse gas emission inventories and vulnerability assessments. Regarding natural and environmental disasters, the Commission recently completed a regional programme on meteorological cooperation, funded by the European Union, which focused on the tropical cyclone issue, through installing various equipment and facilitating information-sharing. Further action in this field includes a World Bank-funded project on the fight against oil spill and the implementation of a regional programme setting up the frame for a concerted regional response to natural disasters. Two documents have been prepared, on an integrated approach for the minimization of non-biodegradable waste and on an inventory of hazardous wastes and development of strategy for national and regional waste reduction, respectively. Both documents aim at waste reduction and handling of wastes. In addition, the Commission is undertaking a number of projects in the area of coastal and marine resources, such as the Regional Environmental Programme, supported by the European Union which focuses on integrated coastal zone management; and regional programmes aimed at the sustainable management of fisheries. The Commission has also completed a regional programme for tourism that aimed at presenting the whole region as a tourist destination and which focuses on marketing and training aspects. In the area of biodiversity, a regional project on aromatic and medicinal plants is under way, the objectives of which are to produce an inventory of these plants within member countries and to set up a regional database.

2. Caribbean region

32. CARICOM has reported that specific action has been taken in a number of areas to promote the Barbados Programme of Action. To address the issue of climate change, for example, 12 CARICOM member countries have continued to be involved in the implementation of the regional project entitled "Caribbean planning for adaptation to global climate change". In the field of energy, the CARICOM secretariat will host a Project Management Unit, which will be responsible for the implementation of phase two of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Project, consisting of designing a region-wide approach to help remove obstacles to self-reliance in energy. In the area of disaster management, a six-year Caribbean Mitigation Project, financed by USAID, was recently completed. CARICOM has also established, on a pilot basis, a mechanism for capacity-building and more effective participation of the region in the implementation and negotiation of new or revised multilateral agreements or instruments.

33. The European Commission continued to support national and regional programmes in many Caribbean small island developing States covering various areas of the Programme of Action.

34. The UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CAR/RCU) is executing a regional component for a UNDP/GEF project on the rehabilitation of contaminated bays in Kingston Harbour, Jamaica, and Havana Bay, Cuba. The project includes both nutrient removal components for new sewage treatment facilities and various region-wide training courses on sewage treatment technologies.

35. The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is currently developing databases which provide information on sustainable development and the implementation of programmes to assess the impact of natural disasters. ECLAC also undertakes assessments of the macroeconomic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters upon request. In this regard, the methodology has been refined to make it relevant to the circumstances of small island developing States.

36. The UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has supported selected countries in this subregion regarding environmental protection and rehabilitation, as well as reduction of environmental vulnerability, as per countries' request and pending availability of funds. The project has thus far covered Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and

Montserrat. A regional consultation on environmental vulnerability is scheduled to be held in Cuba during 2002, to discuss preparedness and performance of national and local institutions to deal with this issue, as well as current legal and regulatory frameworks. This consultation is a partnership between UN-Habitat, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (Geneva) and the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

C. National level

37. Sweden is supporting Cuba, on a bilateral basis, in dealing with radioactive waste management. The project is aimed at upgrading the competence of Cuban experts and institutions according to the International Atomic Energy Agency standards in field emergency preparedness, environmental protection, natural radioactivity and protection of workers.

38. Norway has provided financial as well as technical support to small island developing States through its bilateral programming and with a special emphasis on capacity-building and human resources development.

39. The Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), has approved a large programme to support the Caribbean regional strategy to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS. In the South Pacific, it has started a new project that will enhance local non-governmental organization capacities to carry out projects in various fields relating to the Barbados Programme of Action. In addition, Canada is broadly promoting regional organizations and programmes dealing with climate change policies and adaptation measures for all small island developing States regions. Through its recently established Canada Climate Change Development Fund initiative, it is planning to provide support to the further implementation of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme Strategy Framework. Another project will help strengthen and create public and private sector institutional capacities in the Caribbean to respond to climate change. In the field of disaster response and reduction, a Disaster Management Fund project for the Caribbean has been approved by CIDA. Canada is also engaged on issues of globalization and trade that are of special concern to small island developing States, and is providing direct support to small island developing States of the Caribbean to build their capacity for trade policy, trade negotiations and the implementation of agreed trade-related obligations. As of 2001, CIDA approved the third phase of a programme for the strengthening of economic management in the Eastern Caribbean region. Furthermore, Canada continues to help small island developing States to overcome constraints of communication and lack of Internet connections through financial support to the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas that is currently developing information and communication technology initiatives in the Caribbean small island developing States.

40. Regarding climate change and sea level rise, Barbados reported that its inventory for greenhouse gases as stipulated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has already been completed and that a second draft of the National Circumstances report is currently under preparation. In addition, Barbados has been active in the development of a region-wide Inventory of Coastal Resources and Use and the collection of data for formulating the regional coastal resource information systems. With regard to natural and environmental disasters, Barbados reported that the coordination capacity of the Central Emergency Relief Organization is being strengthened through the development of a national disaster management plan which is currently under review. The agency is also training the national and regional hotel and tourism sector, and facilitating the formulation of a disaster management plan for the tourism sector. In the field of waste management, Barbados reported improvements in the disposal and management of wastes as a result of the ongoing Integrated Solid Waste Management Programme coordinated by the Sewage and Solid Waste Project Unit. Concerning Freshwater Resources, Barbados participated in regional water resource initiatives such as the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute's regional project on the Integrated Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas. In the field of tourism resources, Barbados is currently finalizing a policy document, entitled "Sustainable development of tourism in Barbados — a policy framework", outlining the country's approach to sustainable tourism development, containing recommendations on financial and economic aspects, cultural issues and the natural environment. A national programme of work is in place in Barbados for attaining the goals set out in the

Convention on Biological Diversity, focusing on increasing public awareness of the importance of local biodiversity, its conservation and management, and developing and implementing a programme of action to facilitate effective management of the biodiversity resources of Barbados. Barbados is also developing a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, with financial help from GEF.

III. Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

41. An account is given below of the activities undertaken on an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area.

42. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) continues to support the Caribbean States and Territories in developing and upgrading national maritime administrations, primary and secondary maritime legislation and administrative, legal, scientific and technical capacities to ensure sustainable development and the implementation and enforcement of IMO and other treaties and instruments dealing with maritime safety, the protection of the marine environment and the facilitation of international maritime traffic. In 2002, IMO started a regional programme to further develop capacities in the Caribbean with respect to the effective implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and the Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response in Cooperation, which will be completed in 2003. In 2001, IMO participated actively in a meeting convened by ECLAC, entitled "Towards the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: adoption of an updated joint work programme". As a result of that meeting, the Programme of Action for the Caribbean has been updated to take fully into account the technical assistance programmes that IMO is currently executing in the region's maritime transport and port sectors. These regional programmes include advisory services for the development of national maritime legislation, co-financed by UNDP and the Government of France; capacity-building for ship surveying and inspection, financed by the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the International Transport Workers' Federation; development and updating of national and regional contingency plans to respond to, combat and control marine pollution caused by ships, co-financed by the Governments of Finland and France; the enhancement of maritime safety and further assistance on maritime training and further development of flag and port State control capacities, co-financed by the International Transport Workers' Federation; the further development of maritime safety administrations; the prevention and control of marine pollution through, inter alia, a regional one-week workshop in Jamaica, supported by the United States of America Environmental Protection Agency; maritime/port security; port safety and security, co-financed by the European Commission; a Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre, financed by the Governments of France, the Netherlands Antilles and the United States; and a programme to strengthen effective maritime administration in the Caribbean, co-financed by UNDP.

43. The European Commission, in close collaboration with the Belize Coastal Zone Management, has undertaken a project in Belize on land-use practices and their impact on near shore environment. The purpose of the second phase of the project was to increase local capacity to incorporate watershed-reef connectivity considerations into policy, planning and management dialogue and decision-making. Data access and processing systems have been developed from satellite imagery, enabling low-cost water-quality monitoring of Belize's coastal waters. Formal training in remote sensing and familiarization with monitoring systems has been provided to local institutions. The project, which was completed in March 2002, included a land-management policy proposal to control erosion. The European Commission also funded a project on sustainability of the Negril Marine Park in Jamaica. The current second phase of the Commission's support to the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society aims at providing assistance in maintaining and increasing foreign exchange earnings through tourism, while protecting the fragile coastal environment of Negril, especially the coral reef ecosystem. Among the expected outcomes of the project are: (a) the establishment by the Government of Jamaica of a user fee system; (b) Government subventions; and (c) collection of commissions for licensing fees for the use of natural resources.

44. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean reported that the nineteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee endorsed the Subregional Office in taking a lead role in the execution of the technical work required for the further development and eventual implementation of the proposal of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea.

45. The CARICOM secretariat is currently involved in discussions with CIDA to develop and execute a programme for ocean governance, management and development.

46. Directly addressing degradation as a result from ships in the Caribbean Sea, GEF is supporting the "Wider Caribbean Initiative on Ship-Generated Waste", which is implemented by the World Bank and dedicated to the problems of pollution from ships wastes and oil spills. In addition, a project concept entitled "Environmental protection of the Gulf of Honduras and maritime transport control", under development by the Inter-American Development Bank, is supported by GEF. This project concept proposes to cover activities to protect ecosystems from navigational hazards, overfishing, and land-based sources of pollution, responding to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and other agreements. Other GEF-financed projects addressing pollution from land-based sources include the "Formulation of a Strategic Action Programme for the Integrated Management of Water Resources and the Sustainable Development of the San Juan River Basin and its Coastal Zone", promoting national management between Nicaragua and Costa Rica and the protection of biodiversity of the coastal environment through integrated basin management; a project entitled "Reduction of pesticide runoff to the Caribbean" in a number of Central American countries and Colombia; and a major project, entitled "Integrated catchments area and coastal zone management in small island developing States in the Caribbean", which is being prepared to address in an integrated manner coastal management, near shore fisheries and freshwater resources protection.

47. In the Caribbean, UNEP has carried out several projects on integrated coastal areas management and developed guidelines for integrated planning and management of coastal and marine areas in the wider Caribbean region. Furthermore, UNEP, in collaboration with the Engineering Centre for the Environmental Management of Bays and Coastal Areas (*Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas*) in Cuba, is preparing the "Marine and Coastal Assessment Report of the Caribbean" which is aimed at assisting the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop a comprehensive programme for the integrated management of the Caribbean Sea. In addition, UNEP implemented a project on capacity-building in integrated environmental assessments and environmental information management by initiating workshops for high-level technical experts responsible for coordinating the environment/development reporting process, and by developing a training manual on capacity-building for integrated environmental assessments and reporting. In the area of waste management, two regional workshops are being prepared with a view to encouraging and facilitating early ratification of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and related conventions, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, respectively. UNEP also reported that it is coordinating a GEF project on integrating management of watersheds and coastal areas in Caribbean small island developing States, which addresses a number of areas of concern, such as, inter alia, coastal area management and biodiversity, tourism development, protection of water supplies, land-based sources of pollution and climate change by strengthening institutional capacity at the national and regional levels, providing assistance to countries in understanding the linkages between the requirement for, and meeting national priorities within the regional context. Other UNEP programmes address oil spill response and contingency planning in many Caribbean small island developing States through, inter alia, the establishment of a regional training and information centre (the regional activity centre) in Curaçao, as offered by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, which was formally established in 2001. Further regional UNEP programmes are aimed at demonstrating sustainable alternatives to DDT for malaria vector control in Mexico and Central America, reducing the environmental impact from tropical shrimp trawling through by-catch reduction technologies and management changes, a participatory approach to managing the environment.

48. The Government of Barbados and relevant regional organizations are working to establish a

technical working group to identify and elaborate on all aspects comprising an integrated management approach. Regarding coastal and marine resources, the Coastal Zone Management Unit of Barbados has achieved a number of positive results in protecting and preserving coastal resources, through activities such as research and monitoring of coral reef health and beach erosion resulting from storm events, improved education on issues affecting the coastal and marine environment, improving the efficiency of the coastal planning process by upgrading the database on coastal development, updating the unit's geographic information systems development, and coastal engineering, including the establishment of permanent moorings along the south and west coasts.

49. Jamaica reported that, during its nineteenth session, in 2002, the ECLAC Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee discussed, inter alia, efforts to bring together existing information on environmental activities, for example, management of coastal areas, within the Caribbean region. The country is currently in the process of bringing domestic legislation in line with the provisions of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities. The Jamaican National Environment and Planning Agency is currently developing several policies, attendant mechanisms and legislation aimed at the protection and preservation of the marine environment. These include a national policy for the conservation of sea grass, a beach policy, a watershed policy, environmental management systems, an ocean and coastal zone management policy, a policy on beach erosion, and an underwater cable and pipelines policy. In addition, Jamaica has in place plans relating to disasters at sea, including an oil spill plan (for land and sea), a national hazardous materials contingency plan and a drafted search and rescue plan. Complementing the Government's actions, the Shipping Association of Jamaica, a private sector organization, is planning to establish a waste reception facility at the port in Kingston.

50. Sweden is providing financial aid through a trust fund for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is aimed at implementing the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), a regional marine convention for the wider Caribbean region covering 30 countries. The Convention focuses on integrated coastal zone management, strategic planning for heavily polluted bays and technical assistance.

51. The United States reported that it is a party to, inter alia, the Convention on Nature Protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Cartagena Convention and its Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region. The United States signed the Protocols to the Cartagena Convention Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, but both still await approval by the Senate. Being a founding member of the Caribbean Environment Programme, the United States actively supports its activities related to the latter two Protocols through annual contributions to the UNEP Trust Fund. In the area of oil pollution preparedness, the United States is providing pollution response assistance to other parties, and the United States Coast Guard-led federal Caribbean Regional Response Team in Puerto Rico provides oil spill response and response training capability to the wider Caribbean region. In support of sustainable development in the region, the United States provides ad hoc funding, expertise and foreign assistance through, inter alia, USAID projects on sustainable tourism and wastewater amelioration projects in select countries, and through its National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which supports projects in fisheries and marine protected areas. In recognition of the work to be done in sustainable development and in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United States-led "White Water to Blue Water" partnership is focusing on cross-sectoral management of watershed and marine resources in the region through capacity-building at the national and regional levels to implement the many conventions and protocols negotiated since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. A regional stakeholders' conference will be sponsored in early mid-2003 to kick-start the initiative, identify gaps in approaches to sustainable development of Caribbean States, and to promote partnerships among the relevant stakeholders.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

52. Although many international and regional organizations, as well as national Governments and non-governmental groups, were approached in preparation for the present report, only limited information was submitted. In order to provide an adequate and thorough overview of activities carried out at all levels, in particular at the local and national levels, further support for small island developing States is needed to ensure comprehensive reporting and feedback. In addition, there is scope for improvement of information provision and sharing among all stakeholders dealing with small island developing States issues that needs to be addressed, and the wider use and application of information technology tools, such as the Small Island Developing States Network, as to enhance it, might be considered. It is envisaged that the next phase of the Network will assist the process of information-sharing, especially on programmes that may be of interest to the Governments of small island developing States. In addition, further outreach is required to enable small island developing States and their regional and subregional organizations to provide information of the highest relevance to the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national and regional levels.

53. The information obtained indicates a continued support from some national Governments and United Nations agencies, within their relevant mandates, for issues relating to the Barbados Programme of Action. Ongoing and new programmes and projects have overwhelmingly been directed at institutional and technical capacity-building and the development of human resources. In particular, the issues of climate change adaptation measures, tourism and coastal management have been a major focus of activities.

54. In regard to the work on the vulnerability indexes, it should be noted that the Economic and Social Council will consider the report of the Committee on Development Policy at its substantive session in July 2002, and will provide further guidance on the subject as appropriate. The General Assembly may wish to consider what further actions are required to fulfil previous General Assembly resolutions pertaining to the completion of work on vulnerability indexes.

55. In relation to the issues pertaining to promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development, it should be noted that countries of the region, assisted by their regional organizations, have greatly increased their activities. Key treaties are being ratified or acceded to, and the General Assembly may wish to consider what further information is required in that regard. The General Assembly may also consider issues of promoting coordination and cooperation among and between the various initiatives reported on.

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Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/192, in which the Assembly, inter alia, recalled its resolution 55/196, in which it had proclaimed 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session an interim report on the activities undertaken in preparation for the Year. During the Year, all Member States, the United Nations system and major groups are encouraged to raise awareness of the essential importance of freshwater resources for satisfying basic human needs, for health and food production and the preservation of ecosystems, and for economic and social development in general. They are urged to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels, and to give high priority to the serious freshwater problems facing many regions, especially in the developing countries. The present report describes current and planned activities, initiatives and networking at the local, national and international levels in preparation for the Year. It also provides examples of partnership initiatives among governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other activities that could be undertaken at the national and international levels. The report proposes a public information strategy and a communications plan for awareness-raising, and provides some recommendations for action to be taken in preparation for the Year.

* A/57/150.

** The present report was prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which were asked to jointly coordinate United Nations activities for the Year by the former ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources in its capacity as the coordinating entity for the Year.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 55/196, the General Assembly proclaimed 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater; encouraged Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of freshwater; and called upon Member States, national and international organizations, major groups and the private sector to make voluntary contributions in accordance with the guidelines for international years and anniversaries.

2. In its resolution 56/192, the General Assembly welcomed the activities undertaken by States, the Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system that are engaged in inter-agency work related to freshwater and major groups in preparation for the observance of the Year. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session an interim report on the activities undertaken in preparation for the Year. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

3. In its resolution 55/196, the Assembly invited the former ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources to serve as the coordinating entity for the Year. At its twenty-second session, the former Subcommittee accepted with appreciation the offer of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to jointly coordinate United Nations system activities for the Year. The former Subcommittee also welcomed UNESCO's offer to provide the coordinating secretariat for implementing the programme of activities for the Year.

4. Since 31 December 2001, the subsidiary bodies of the former ACC ceased to exist by decision of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). Since then, the functions of the former Subcommittee have continued through an informal inter-agency mechanism rather than under a standing subcommittee. The present report has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with UNESCO and with contributions from other members of the former Subcommittee and interested non-governmental organizations and other entities.

II. Background

5. Awareness of the importance of the use and management of freshwater resources for achieving sustainable development has increased dramatically in recent years, as a result of a number of ongoing national and international initiatives and activities, leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

6. During the preparatory process of the Summit, broad-based support has been indicated for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003. In the draft plan of implementation to be considered by the Summit, it has been agreed to promote effective coordination among the various international and intergovernmental bodies and processes working on water-related issues, both within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and international financial institutions, drawing on the contributions of other international institutions and civil society to inform intergovernmental decision-making; it has also been agreed that closer coordination should be promoted to elaborate and support proposals and undertake activities related to the Year and beyond (see A/CONF.199/L.1).

7. Among the Secretary-General's priorities for the Summit, five specific areas have been identified in which concrete results are felt to be both achievable and essential: water and sanitation; energy; health; agriculture; and biodiversity. With regard to water and sanitation, it is expected that the draft plan of implementation will strongly reassert the relevant goals pledged in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2). The Declaration pledged to halve, by the year 2015, the number of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water. It also resolved to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels that promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.

8. The International Year of Freshwater, 2003 provides an opportunity to follow up on the outcomes of the Summit and to consolidate and build upon the many efforts carried out to date to protect, use and manage freshwater resources in a sustainable manner. It allows for renewed and intensified commitment to continue such efforts at all levels. Yet the real challenge is to focus attention on action-oriented

activities and policies that ensure the long-term protection of available water quantity and quality and sustainability of water resources utilization, including sanitation. Collective action is required to build and strengthen the institutional and human capacity to continue sustainable freshwater resources development and protection efforts far beyond 2003.

III. International activities and initiatives

9. Within the United Nations system, matters relating to freshwater resources, including sanitation, are dealt with by more than 23 different bodies. The International Year of Freshwater, 2003 is an excellent opportunity to strengthen and expand existing coordinating and networking efforts among United Nations bodies and other relevant stakeholders at all levels. The Year offers a platform for promoting ongoing water-related activities and policies, bringing together the United Nations agencies concerned with water issues in a common endeavour to assist countries in their efforts to improve the integrated management of water resources.

World Water Assessment Programme

10. One of the main ongoing programmes being implemented by all concerned agencies in the United Nations system is the World Water Assessment Programme. The Programme evolved as a result of decision 6/1 of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which was adopted in 1997. In the decision, the Commission called on the United Nations system to undertake periodic assessments of the sustainable development, management, protection and use of freshwater resources and to provide a global report of the state of freshwater resources and potential problems. In 1998, the former ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources launched the *World Water Development Report*, and in 2000 initiated the World Water Assessment Programme as an inter-agency initiative under the oversight of the former Subcommittee, coordinated by the Programme secretariat and hosted by UNESCO. The Programme provides the background assessment for the *Report*.

11. The Programme can enhance the process of making comprehensive freshwater assessments within individual countries and among groups of countries, such as riparian States that share international watercourses. It can also assist in monitoring progress towards the implementation of targets within countries, and can provide information to assist decision makers in taking specific actions to address situations of water stress and shortages. The Programme encourages the formation of partnerships to monitor progress towards the alleviation of water stress and to recommend actions to remedy unacceptable situations. It also provides a broad mechanism for bringing together relevant inputs from NGOs, academic institutions and the private sector. Information on participating in the Programme is available at its web site at <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/index.shtml>.

12. The *World Water Development Report* is the central product of the Programme and is intended to be a comprehensive and scientific triennial report on the state of global freshwater resources. The promotion of the *Report* will be a major focus of the Year's public information activities. Additional and related scientific and political events, exhibits and conferences on freshwater issues will be linked and included in all promotional activities regarding the launch of the *Report*. The first edition of the *Report* will be available at the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Kyoto in 2003.

13. Another product of the Programme will be the production of a regional water development report for Africa; scheduled to be produced in late 2003, it will be the first of a series of regional reports from around the world to be produced in future years. The Programme secretariat will also be involved with other common activities, such as its web site and the development of a travelling exhibit for the Year.

14. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) actively contribute to global water supply and sanitation monitoring and information dissemination under the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme. Coverage figures produced by the Monitoring Programme are the official reference data for the United Nations system, including the goals of the Millennium Declaration. In 2003, an updated global water supply and sanitation database (country and regional figures) will be produced based on new evidence and analysis. Drinking water quality, and not just access, is becoming an increasingly important part of the Programme's work. A water quality pilot study, being conducted jointly by WHO and UNICEF during

2002-2003 in nine countries, will test both the microbial and chemical quality of the water at the source as well as in the household.

Regional initiatives

15. The International Year of Freshwater, 2003 offers an opportunity for promoting water-related activities and policies, in particular within the work programmes of the regional commissions, with their close links to interregional, regional and national political authorities. The organization of regional and national workshops for training purposes and awareness-raising among politicians, legislative bodies and other governmental institutions is a major focus of the water-related agenda of regional commissions in 2003.

16. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is contributing to the Year through its publication *Water Conservation: A Guide to Promoting Public Awareness* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/81, No. 81 of its Water Resources Series). The publication aims at providing guidance to the countries interested in initiating and efficiently carrying out campaigns and programmes at the national, provincial and local levels to raise public awareness of the importance of freshwater conservation for sustainable development. Countries in the Asia and Pacific region have found the *Guide* useful for planning and implementing various activities to commemorate the Year. It has been translated into the Bahasa Indonesia language for a publication and issuance on CD-ROM, and several other countries have requested translation into their respective languages. A summary of the publication is available at <www.unescap.org/enrd/wmrs/publications/wrs/81.htm>.

17. Moreover, ESCAP is planning to carry out a number of national and subregional training activities to strengthen the capacity of the concerned countries of the region in water resources management, using the recently completed guidelines on strategic planning and management of water resources. Experts from several developing countries in the region participated in preparing and adopting the guidelines during 2001, and they will be used to support activities related to the Year. Five subregional workshops are to be held in 2002, and national seminars will be held in selected countries during 2003 for detailed application of the guidelines.

18. An Asian ministerial round table dialogue on water sector challenges, policies and institutional development was organized in May 2002 by ESCAP, in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Thailand. Ministers and senior officials from countries in Asia, together with the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry of South Africa, identified common water issues and shared experiences, and prepared and adopted a joint statement covering common concerns, shared principles and priorities for action. The joint statement will be submitted to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the World Water Forum to be held in Japan in 2003.

19. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is also linking a number of its various water-related activities to the Year. For example, water issues will have a prominent place on the agenda of the Kiev ministerial conference on the theme "Environment for Europe", to be held from 21 to 23 May 2003, including the adoption of a protocol to the ECE water and industrial accidents conventions on civil liability for damage caused by industrial accidents on transboundary waters, and an environment strategy for the newly independent States that includes integrated water resources management and international river basin issues. In addition, ECE is planning a number of regional seminars to be held during the Year. On the occasion of World Water Day, 22 March 2003, a seminar will be held in Finland on sustainable flood prevention and safety of water construction works; another will be held in the Russian Federation on the sharing of waters in international river basins; and a third is planned for the Netherlands on water monitoring and assessment for planning and decision-making. At the end of the Year, countries will meet in Spain and adopt, inter alia, a long-term water strategy for the whole ECE region and a manual on public participation in water management. Those activities are mainly carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Europe and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, supported by a number of NGOs competent on international watercourse issues.

Water for cities

20. There is an emerging consensus that an increasing part of water security challenges will have to be met in the coming decades in cities and megacities, where most people will live, the most water will be consumed and most of the pollution will be generated. During the

International Year of Freshwater, 2003, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is organizing some of its key initiatives around the theme "water and cities", which will be prominently displayed at the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Japan in March 2003. A special meeting on the theme "Water and cities", organized by UN-Habitat, will be held as part of the Forum, at which a flagship report, *The State of Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities*, will be officially launched. The report will provide a detailed overview of the situation of water and sanitation in cities in different regions of the world, and will focus on key policy issues with priority to meet the water- and sanitation-related goals set out in the Millennium Declaration. It will include a compilation of best practices in urban water and sanitation projects, will be complementary to the *World Water Development Report*, and will be published and launched officially as a contribution to the Year.

Assistance to country programmes

21. Information materials to raise awareness at the national level about water resources management during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 will be disseminated through United Nations information centres and through the network of United Nations resident coordinators. Materials will also be made available through country offices of individual United Nations programmes and specialized agencies.

22. During the Year, for example, UNICEF intends to focus its global water, environment and sanitation programme to benefit children and vulnerable people. It is stressing the need to increase the awareness of government partners, national and international organizations, NGOs and the private sector concerning the importance of freshwater resources for the survival and development of children. Its most important contribution to the Year is through advocacy and action at the country level for improving the access to and quality of freshwater for children's survival and development. Through its ongoing water, environment and sanitation programmes in over 80 countries, the focus is on strengthening the capacities of communities and households to improve and sustain their water security (water supply and water quality). Sanitation and hygiene promotion programmes resulting from improved facilities and making school environments safe are an increasingly important part of the country programmes.

23. Moreover, UNICEF country and regional offices are building their capacities for emergency preparedness and response to meet the water and sanitation needs of vulnerable populations in disasters and conflicts. For example, UNICEF facilitated a conference in Afghanistan in April 2002 that addressed problems of water management for domestic water supply, agriculture and hydropower.

Third World Water Forum, Japan

24. The Third World Water Forum, organized by the World Water Council and hosted by the Government of Japan, will be one of the major conferences dedicated to freshwater issues to be held in 2003. The Forum is to be held in Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka, Japan, from 16 to 23 March 2003. The meeting will bring together the world's leading scientists and water experts, as well as representatives of Governments, local authorities and non-governmental organizations, in order to exchange knowledge and share information. The coincidence of the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 with the Forum provides an opportunity for reciprocal promotion of and cooperation on freshwater issues.

25. The first edition of the *World Water Development Report*, being prepared by the United Nations system, will be launched at the Forum in Kyoto on World Water Day, 22 March 2003. Moreover, UNESCO will release the two volumes of the *Encyclopaedia on Life Support Systems* on the body of knowledge related to freshwater during the Forum in Japan in March 2003.

26. As part of its inputs to the Year and the Forum, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is planning to launch a new initiative on the role and operations of national hydrological services, including the convening of a special meeting on the exchange of hydrological data at the Forum. WMO will also coordinate a series of meetings on flood disasters and flood management at the Forum.

27. As its contribution to the Forum, UNICEF has initiated a process of creating partnerships with children and young people as critical stakeholders for water and sanitation development. It is co-organizing the Children's World Water Forum, on the theme "Give children a voice", at Kyoto, as well as a panel discussion on the theme "Children and young people as stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector". It also plans an art and cultural programme on water, including expositions of international drawing contests,

video/photograph documentaries by children, theatre and poetry.

28. In preparation for those events, during 2002 UNICEF is sponsoring the following activities: preparation of materials, including training materials, to work with children; child-friendly versions of key documents, video documentaries and exhibition materials for the Children's World Water Forum; organization of a technical session at the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and regional consultations and country activities in 10 to 15 countries.

Relationship to the marine environment

29. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities is a non-binding global agreement, reflecting the resolve of States to address the serious impacts of land-based sources of pollution and physical degradation on the coastal and marine environments. It is a comprehensive programme designed to assist States in taking concrete actions individually or jointly within their respective policies, priorities and resources. The goal of the Programme of Action is to address the significant impacts on human health, poverty alleviation and food security caused by the continued degradation of the coastal and marine environment through land-based activities.

30. During the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 UNEP's regional seas programme and the Global Programme of Action will feature the "H_2O: From Hilltop to Oceans" initiative, particularly during the Third World Water Forum in Japan and on World Water Day, 22 March 2003. The initiative will also be celebrated by UNEP, in collaboration with many partners, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly in the Water Dome (see para. 38 below) exhibitions and side events.

IV. Public information strategy

31. An effective communications plan is essential to focus world attention on action-oriented activities and policies that ensure the long-term protection of available freshwater. The political process surrounding preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development involves a comprehensive agenda, for which freshwater is a priority. The International Year of Freshwater, 2003, through a variety of awareness-raising activities and public relations outreach, offers a great opportunity for the continuous promotion of freshwater issues and an immediate follow-up to the Summit focusing on concrete activities, respectively. Strategic communications and coordination are crucial to the coherence and success of that effort. Therefore, it has been proposed to include the Year on the agenda of the Communications Group Task Force, which includes collaboration of the public information departments of several United Nations agencies. The communications plan is being developed with the active participation of the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs and Public Information.

32. Based on the communications plan, a travelling exhibit, a web site, educational materials and a global public relations campaign are being developed and will be executed from June 2002 to December 2003. Information and press kits, brochures, education materials for school curricula, videos, radio and TV documentaries and special events are to be included in the communications plan. Special editions of normal United Nations publications and other information materials are part of the public information campaign.

33. The communications plan goal is to accomplish the following objectives:

(a) Raise awareness among the general public about the Year and allow them to recognize linkages between their well-being and the sustainable development and management of the global freshwater resource;

(b) Encourage Governments to develop policies and laws to protect water environments;

(c) Stimulate Governments, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations to advocate for greater investments in the sustainable development of water resources;

(d) Increase bilateral and multilateral donations for the conservation of high priority ecosystems and sustainable development of water supplies.

Educational materials

34. It is planned to develop educational materials aimed at allowing educators to incorporate water issues into different lessons, from world history to math. The content of that material will be based on information from the World Water Assessment Programme and the

World Water Development Report, the exhibit for Johannesburg and the Water Year 2003 web site. There will be a wide distribution of those materials through United Nations information centres and offices throughout the world and via the Internet to Governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and other interested parties.

35. The Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems, being produced under the auspices of UNESCO, focuses on sustainable development in all its myriad aspects — ecological issues, global stability, peace, equity and security. The Encyclopaedia body of knowledge is in about 20 major subject categories and spanned by about 200 subject themes. Each theme is on average equivalent to one print volume of 500 standard pages. The Encyclopaedia will release its two volumes related to freshwater — Water Science and Resources, and Water Engineering Resources — during the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Japan in March 2003.

36. A proposal to produce a series of children's books for the Year has been developed by the Gender and Water Alliance and UNICEF. The books, targeted at children between the ages of 6 and 11, would aim to educate children, parents and teachers about key issues in water and sanitation, and to encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour regarding water use and management. Four book ideas have already been developed, including stories about glaciers and climate change in Pakistan; the beginning and end of the Aral Sea; regaining traditional water harvesting techniques in India; and surviving floods in Mozambique. Once finalized, the books will be launched at a special meeting on water and children at the Forum. Afterwards, the books will be disseminated worldwide in schools, book exhibitions, open fairs etc.

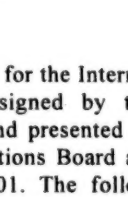
37. In 2002, UNICEF began to design and produce printed materials to highlight progress and solutions for improving the health of children: a brochure on UNICEF water, environment and sanitation programmes; an updated poster illustrating the links between water and sanitation and children's health; sets of posters and pamphlets on various water, environment and sanitation topics, including appropriate water and sanitation technologies; and children's books on water and sanitation.

Water Dome

38. The Water Dome is a major event that will be held in Johannesburg in parallel with the World Summit on Sustainable Development from 26 August to 4 September 2002. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with UNESCO and other agencies, is organizing the first official announcement of the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 during a side-event at the Water Dome. The travelling exhibit for the Year will also be launched at the Water Dome.

Logo

39. The logo for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 was designed by the Department of Public Information and presented to the Working Committee of the Publications Board at its 367th meeting, on 15 November 2001. The following logo design for the Year was approved and is being used for the web site, travelling exhibit and other public awareness activities for the Year:



Web site

40. An official web site for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 is being launched under the domain name <www.wateryear2003.org>. The web site will be housed and maintained at UNESCO, under the auspices of the World Water Assessment Programme secretariat.

41. The web site will be used as an awareness-raising tool and a clearing house to announce activities taking place at the national, regional and international levels. The web site provides a forum in which to discuss different issues among different groups or stakeholders. A number of different themes will be featured, for each

which a given United Nations agency may take a ading role.

Travelling exhibit

2. Design work has begun on a travelling exhibit, to e launched at the Water Dome during the World ummit on Sustainable Development, that will elebrate and promote the International Year of reshwater, 2003. The exhibit consists of a ombination of multimedia components and graphic ements presented on three curved projection screens nd four curved free-standing panels. The circular xhibit measures approximately 5 metres in diameter. he panels will contain graphic and text information nd computer-touch screens. The touch screens will ctivate stories from the water-related programmes of nited Nations agencies and other partners.

3. The multimedia programme will project short ideo presentations showing the central role water lays in sustaining life on our planet. Visitors will also ave an opportunity to view additional information on e interior walls of the free-standing panels. The total ffect will leave the viewer with a strong emotional npression about water and the knowledge that the nited Nations and its partners are actively engaged in reserving and protecting this precious resource.

4. Following the Summit, the exhibit will be used to unch the Year in New York (United Nations eadquarters), Kyoto (Third World Water Forum) and aris (UNESCO headquarters), and will be made vailable to science museums around the world. unding for the exhibit has been generously provided y the Government of the Netherlands.

V. Partnership initiatives

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

5. The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative ouncil is a multi-stakeholder initiative dedicated to nhancing collaboration in the water supply and nitation sector, and is working in close cooperation ith the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. he Council's thematic networks focus on hygiene romotion, environmental sanitation, institutional and anagement reform and community-based approaches, cluding a code of ethics and gender mainstreaming. he Council has recently launched a campaign entitled "WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all", aimed at mobilizing political support and action around the world to end the suffering of the more than 2.4 billion people who are without access to adequate sanitation and the 1.1 billion without a safe and affordable water supply. A "WASH the World" campaign is envisioned for key conferences and events, and some 30 countries are being earmarked for support to implement the proposed WASH initiative.

46. The Council will be undertaking a number of advocacy and communication activities related to the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, focusing on the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In particular, it will be expanding its outreach to increase public awareness of water, sanitation and hygiene as keys to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. With members in over 140 countries, the Council will continue to play an important role in the promotion of water and sanitation, particularly at the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Japan in March 2003. Throughout the Year, the Council and its partners will be holding dialogues, virtual forums, exhibitions and round tables around WASH-related themes, featuring key personalities, representatives of governments, NGOs and members of civil society, the private sector, men, women and children. The year-long activities will culminate in Dakar, with the holding of the sixth global forum of the Council in December 2003.

Gender and Water Alliance

47. The Gender and Water Alliance, an associated programme of the Global Water Partnership, is a network of 115 organizations and individuals around the world. The Alliance offers a mix of information and knowledge-sharing activities, such as electronic conferencing, a web site, advocacy leaflets and video, annual reports, and capacity-building and pilot programmes. For the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, trained Alliance ambassadors all over the world will use a range of products and services to focus on the essential role of women and children in sustainable management of water and sanitation. The products (in four languages) will include key messages leaflets; a global advocacy video; annual "facts and figures" reports on gender and water; a booklet on successful gender case studies; guidelines for local governments to mainstream gender; a series of posters for use in mainstreaming gender in water resources management;

and post cards with key messages. The Alliance will showcase those materials at the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Japan in March 2003; at the sixth global forum of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, to be held in Dakar at the end of 2002; and other events.

Other important partners

48. A large number of non-governmental organizations, as well as research institutes and other entities dealing with water issues, have indicated interest in preparing and organizing activities related to the International Year of Freshwater, 2003. Such activities would include international conferences; workshops and seminars on various water-related themes; public awareness campaigns; fund-raising activities and interactive forums; the publication of special editions of newsletters and scientific articles; and exhibitions. Moreover, contacts have been made with other important actors in the field of freshwater resources, including the Global Water Partnership, the World Water Council and many others. It is expected that a strong network of interested parties will be established for the purpose of commemorating the Year and its related activities.

VI. Related publications

49. The *World Water Development Report*, as mentioned above, is the central information product of the United Nations system to be produced during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003. It is intended to be a comprehensive and scientific report on the state of global freshwater resources, and will be widely disseminated. The promotion of the *Report* will be a major focus of the Year's public information activities. Additional and related scientific and political events, exhibits and conferences on freshwater issues will be linked and included in all promotional activities regarding the launch of the *Report* at the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Kyoto in March 2003.

50. The *Natural Resources Forum*, a quarterly journal published by the United Nations with Blackwell Publishing in Oxford, will dedicate its annual special issue for 2003 (May) to the International Year of Freshwater, 2003. Articles for the special issue have been requested from well-known specialists on major freshwater subjects, such as water supply and sanitation for all; water recycling and demand management; water pricing and public/private partnerships; community water management and local water user associations; forest cover and watershed protection; sustainable management of groundwater aquifers; legal and institutional issues and the role of civil society; gender and water issues; special problems, such as arsenic contamination of drinking water; and other water-related subjects.

51. The *International Rivers and Lakes Newsletter*, published jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, will also devote its June 2003 issue to the International Year of Freshwater, 2003. The *Newsletter* explores the legal, economic and political issues related to international watercourses, including treaties and agreements among countries. Other important United Nations journals and publications that provide crucial information on freshwater issues can also be used for promotion of the Year. UNEP's *Global Environment Outlook Report*, to be issued at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, will highlight the state of regional and global water resources, as well as the responses to the threats to them. A special issue of the *WMO Bulletin* will be issued in conjunction with the Year during 2003.

VII. Funding considerations

52. One Member State has contributed seed funding for activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003. It is expected that other governmental and non-governmental organizations will also provide support to public awareness activities related to the Year. Appeals for funds will be addressed to Governments and private foundations.

53. It is expected that the United Nations system will contribute to fund-raising through a variety of means and projects, including the production and sale of United Nations stamps with reference to freshwater themes. Proceeds from fund-raising could be used primarily to raise awareness of and improve educational programmes about water resource conservation and management in developing countries upon request during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

54. Freshwater issues are a concern for all. Because of their increasing political importance, freshwater issues have become a major priority for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The International Year of Freshwater, 2003 provides an excellent opportunity to maintain the momentum and raise public awareness. However, financial contributions and commitments have been limited to date. Fund-raising appeals for the Year will therefore be directed again to all stakeholders, such as Governments, non-governmental organizations and private foundations.

55. **Member States may wish to consider setting up national committees or designating focal points in their respective countries to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels.**

56. **Interested stakeholders, such as international and regional organizations, non-governmental groups and others, are encouraged to link their water-related activities to the Year, and may wish to consider new partnerships.**

57. **Member States, national and international organizations, major groups and the private sector are urged to make voluntary contributions in accordance with the guidelines for international years and anniversaries.**

58. **Following the example of the informal International Year of Mountains, 2002, Focus Group, composed of interested permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York, interested permanent representatives to the United Nations may wish to convene an informal steering group for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003.**

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United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 of 31 March 1998 and 53/475 of 8 June 1999, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to continue to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). Data is provided regarding the outcome of the ninth and tenth funding cycles that took place in 2001, as well as information on progress in each programmatic focus area. The present report supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, and A/55/763 and Corr.1).

Member States will note that a total of $111.9 million has been programmed for the year 2001 — $36.8 million were awarded for projects concerning the environment, $32.2 million for projects relating to children's health, $19.2 million for projects in the peace, security and human rights area, $18.4 million for projects regarding population and women, and $5.2 million for institutional building capacity. Since the partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation was launched in 1998, $423 million have been programmed as at the end of 2001.

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I. Introduction

1. In 2001, the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) continued to play its original role as focal point for the partnership with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) in connection with Robert E. Turner's contribution in support of United Nations causes. As such, UNFIP collaborated with the United Nations system to identify innovative, high-impact projects consistent with the programme frameworks for children's health, population and women and the environment, and the evolving strategy for peace, security and human rights, analysing proposals in consultation with UNF. Special emphasis was placed on working with implementing partners and the United Nations Development Group on joint proposals at the field level, consistent with the common country assessments and the United Nations development assistance frameworks.

2. UNFIP was also increasingly called upon to provide advice to the private sector and foundations on partnership options with the United Nations family, as well as to facilitate networking and fund-raising possibilities for the Organization, including with bilateral and multilateral donors. In this evolving aspect of its operations, the Fund was guided by the Secretary-General's ongoing programme of reform and the Millennium Development Goals.

II. Programme

A. Children's health

3. A total of $32.2 million was approved in 2001 for projects relating to children's health, bringing the value of this portfolio to $160.8 million as at 31 December 2001 (see annex). The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) continue to be the major partners for this portfolio.

4. It may be recalled that the programme framework on children's health identifies three areas of focus, namely, eradicating polio, preventing tobacco use and decreasing child mortality. During 2001, approved projects focused on measles and tobacco control and on supporting the community component of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses initiative.

5. Four strategies are employed within this portfolio — saving lives, supporting innovation, research and policy — all of which focus on strengthening partnerships, developing synergies and capacity-building at individual, community, subnational and national levels. In terms of saving lives in such areas as polio, measles, guinea worm eradication and nutrition, support is helping to meet both the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit for Children goals. Over $74 million have been allocated for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International and the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, bilateral donors and others. Polio cases were halved between 1999 and 2000; some areas were reached by health interventions for the first time during the Polio National Immunization Days. In addition, the number of countries with polio cases decreased from 20 to 10 from 2000 to 2001. Lessons learned from polio are being applied to measles reduction. Twenty million dollars were given to fight measles in 2001, with further support to be forthcoming in 2002. Partners include UNICEF, WHO, the American Red Cross and CDC. UNF funds contributed to measles mortality reduction in eight countries by allowing vaccination for 21 million children between September and December 2001. Both the measles and polio campaigns have provided opportunities to distribute vitamin A. These and other projects assist in building sustainable health systems.

6. The second strategy concerns providing support to innovative, pioneering efforts such as the community component of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses initiative, where caregivers are empowered to reduce child mortality and morbidity (most deaths of children under five years of age occur at home with little or no contact with health providers); prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS; and stemming the rise of tobacco use among young people. The Foundation's early investment helped to attract other donors to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, by far the largest source of HIV infection in children below 15 years of age. Activities by a partnership of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and WHO began with a $3.1 million grant from UNF to seven African countries in 1998 and showed the feasibility and acceptability of mother-to-child transmission prevention in developing countries. The

focus was on building local capacity to implement and monitor the programmes. An additional $4 million for eight African countries was approved in 2000 to scale up pilot sites, obtain additional experience for full-scale implementation and to support new countries with a high HIV prevalence.

7. In 1998, UNF awarded the largest grant for an international project aimed at stemming the rise of tobacco use among young people. Five UNF-supported projects totalling $9 million employ a synergistic combination of educational, legislative, economic and political approaches. The Channel the Outrage project, approved in 2001, builds the capacity of tobacco control non-governmental organizations (NGOs) by providing seed grants and training and information through tool kits and distance learning. In 20 countries, "change agents" promote healthy choices, call for strict regulation of the tobacco industry and push for policy changes to address the specific challenges in their countries. Five countries have identified their own resources to join the campaign.

8. The third strategy for UNF support in child health includes applied research in zinc supplementation, which can reduce acute lower respiratory tract infection by 41 per cent and decrease by 67 per cent the mortality risk of low birth weight babies between one and nine months. Examples of the fourth strategy, relating to policy, include support for the UNICEF Say Yes for Children campaign, which resulted in 50 million people pledging support to the 10 points of the World Summit for Children. The WHO-led Macroeconomics and Health project produced a report on the relationship between health, economic development and poverty reduction. The results, being disseminated at the national and international levels, recommend policy changes which could save around 8 million lives a year by 2010 and generate economic benefits of more than $360 billion per year by 2010-2020.

B. Population and women

9. A total of more than $18 million was approved in 2001 for 10 projects for population and women (see annex). The total portfolio for this programme framework is currently more than $109 million and includes projects in 75 countries as well as seven global projects. Executing partners include the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization, UNAIDS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Staff College Project (UNSCP) and WHO. Some 13 projects are carried out by United Nations country teams. It should be noted that, in selecting new projects, priority was given to (1) United Nations country team submissions to advance the reform initiatives of the Secretary-General; (2) projects that had originally received planning grants and have successfully implemented the first phase; and (3) projects that provide the best opportunity for financial leverage.

10. In line with the two priority areas of the programme framework on population and women — improving the lives of adolescent girls and improving the quality of sexual and reproductive health care — projects approved in 2001 continued to foster a supportive social environment for adolescent girls, improve delivery of reproductive health services and increase access to reproductive health information, and reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS. Most of the projects are comprised of cross- and multi-sectoral approaches that will provide impetus in addressing the larger issues of poverty and social development.

11. Some projects came to an end in 2001, allowing for an initial assessment of results and an analysis of lessons learned. For example, among the achievements of the first phase of the project Meeting the Development and Participation Needs of Adolescents, were an increased awareness, including among policy makers, of the importance of focusing on issues that directly affect adolescent girls through community mobilization efforts, changes in national policy and legislation and leveraging additional donor support. This project demonstrated the net advantages of a strengthened partnership among United Nations agencies, of enabling adolescents to participate in project design and implementation, of creating national databases on adolescent needs and issues, and of ensuring linkages with the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

12. On emergency rehabilitation, the UNFPA-executed Kosovo Reproductive Health Care project made a significant impact in addressing the special

needs in Kosovo. In terms of projects dealing with the improvement of quality of reproductive health care, these activities have brought about an enhanced knowledge and understanding of the issue, including access to specialized reproductive health services for adolescents and enhanced awareness of reproductive health and family planning, including HIV/AIDS among women, men and adolescents. Those projects dealing with violence against women were innovative and proved to be catalytic in helping to make a difference in the economic empowerment of women, in promoting gender equity through institutional capacity-building and in gathering and disseminating information on women's issues in general, including creating greater visibility to the overall subject of violence against women.

13. Insofar as ongoing projects are concerned, some are using innovative approaches and infusing modern technology while taking into consideration cultural, psychological and social realities. One example is the UNDP project, Empowering Women and Girls in Poor Communities through Information Delivery and Dialogue, a pilot test of satellite technology for audio and multimedia digital broadcasts to reach poor communities with both format and content developed in their own language by locally based organizations. Other initiatives, including the United Nations Inter-agency Project on Trafficking in Women and Children in the Mekong Subregion, are making a valuable contribution towards enhancing coordination among governments, NGOs and United Nations agencies.

14. At a glance, the population and women portfolio demonstrates that, by taking a broad-based developmental approach to the adolescents agenda, UNFIP and UNF support has enabled United Nations agencies to use their comparative advantages and to work in a broad and effective manner so as to have an impact on and improve the lives of adolescent girls, including access to better reproductive health information and services.

C. Environment

15. The two principal funding priorities in the environment area are biodiversity and sustainable energy and climate change, each one guided by a separate programme framework. Details on the frameworks are provided in the report of the Secretary-General on UNFIP for 2000 (see A/55/763, paras. 20-25). A total of $36.8 million was programmed in 2001 for 22 projects in the environment area. The overall environment portfolio is valued at $97.6 million to date (see annex), encompassing $42 million towards biodiversity activities, $31 million in support of sustainable energy and climate change efforts and $24.6 million for environment projects that fall outside the frameworks.

1. Biodiversity

16. Significant progress was made in 2001 towards implementation of the programme framework on biodiversity endorsed by the UNFIP Advisory Board[1] and UNF Board of Directors in the fall of 1999. As indicated in previous reports, the biodiversity strategy is comprised of two major components: (1) to assist developing countries to promote effective action for biodiversity by targeting protected areas designated by the 1972 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and to implement key objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this regard, the framework encourages projects that seek to make World Heritage sites outstanding global examples of conserving biodiversity while meeting human needs; and (2) to promote the protection of coral reefs around the world by supporting the strategic implementation of the Framework for Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) that was adopted by 80 nations in 1995. The above-mentioned programme framework priorities are consistent with the Secretary-General's millennium report and the Millennium Development Goals that underscore the urgent need to preserve the

[1] The Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and is composed of members who serve in their personal capacity. As of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the membership is as follows: Lincoln Chen, Vice-President, the Rockefeller Foundation; Joseph E. Connor, Under-Secretary-General for Management, United Nations; Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations; Martin Belinga-Eboutou, President of the Economic and Social Council; Mary Oakes Smith, Manager, Africa Region, the World Bank; Francisco Seixas da Costa, Chairman of the Second Committee of the General Assembly; Franklin A. Thomas, Head of the Ford Foundation Study Group; and Amir A. Dossal (ex officio), Executive Director of UNFIP.

world's biological diversity, which is being irreversibly lost at an alarming rate.

17. It should be noted that UNF is the first major donor to target World Heritage sites as the explicit focus of its biodiversity funding and has made significant headway in demonstrating the potential of the World Heritage Convention as an instrument for promoting biodiversity conservation. Because the majority of projects funded to date are still in initial stages of implementation, it is premature to evaluate the full impact. Nonetheless, progress to date in implementing the framework is encouraging, as indicated by projects that address significant threats to biodiversity, such as the one in Ecuador's Galapagos Islands, where UNESCO is working with the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park to control invasive species, and the one in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where UNESCO is working with a coalition of conservation NGOs and national institutions to help protect five seriously threatened World Heritage sites from the devastating impact of armed conflict in the eastern part of the country, including the influx of refugees along border areas, rebel activities, banditry, poaching and mining. Similarly, there is positive feedback in respect of projects that promote innovative linkages between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, including a major initiative under the Small Grants Programme of the UNDP Global Environment Facility to demonstrate how community-based initiatives can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation by complementing and adding value to existing conservation programmes at six World Heritage sites, and the efforts of UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the RARE Centre for Tropical Conservation to develop a replicable approach to sustainable tourism at six World Heritage sites in four countries, namely, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia and Mexico. Projects intended to build the capacity necessary to sustain protected areas into the next century as well as projects that use clusters of World Heritage sites to promote integrated bioregional planning are off to a promising start.

18. Regarding the second component of the framework, coral reefs provide a compelling example of the link between maintaining healthy ecosystems and promoting sustainable development. These "rainforests of the sea" provide critical habitat and nurseries for an abundance of marine species, including many of subsistence and commercial importance, attract tourist dollars that often underpin local economies and afford shoreline protection from the forces of the ocean. Recognizing the significance of coral reefs, eight nations came together in 1994 to create the International Coral Reef Initiative. At the first ICRI global workshop the following year, a Framework for Action was developed. This Framework has now been endorsed by more than 80 countries and is widely seen as a blueprint for international cooperation aimed at addressing the declining condition of the world's reefs.

19. In March 2001, the UNFIP and UNF Boards approved the action phase of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) programme, a major integrated effort to halt the trend of coral reef degradation around the world. As a response to the ICRI Framework for Action to protect coral reefs worldwide, ICRAN is a global initiative of UNEP in partnership with many of the leading coral reef science and conservation organizations. The ICRAN strategic alliance approach to coral reef management and assessment has been developed to ensure the future of these valuable ecosystems, as well as the future of the communities they sustain. Within the next four years, ICRAN seeks to create a network of demonstration sites in key coral regions of the world that showcase and promote the proliferation of best practices for coral reef management and conservation.

2. Sustainable energy and climate change

20. Member States will recall that the programme framework on sustainable energy and climate change was endorsed by the UNFIP Advisory Board and the UNF Board of Directors in late 2000 and formally circulated by UNFIP to United Nations system partners in June 2001. The framework will serve to channel the use of UNF funds in this area over a three-year period beginning in 2001. It is guided by the Secretary-General's millennium report, wherein it is stated that addressing the challenge of climate change is one of the most important tasks of the twenty-first century and the Secretary-General calls for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency to address this important challenge. Special emphasis is given to market-based approaches for promoting sustainable energy development that are likely to have significant social, economic and environmental benefits and are based on innovative forms of public-private

partnerships. It should be noted that the framework was the winner of the 2001 World Climate Technology Award from the Climate Technology Initiative, International Energy Agency, in recognition of UNF efforts to promote large-scale applications of sustainable energy in developing countries.

21. Consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, the framework identifies three priority areas for UNF investment: (1) to promote efforts to develop and demonstrate sustainable and commercial approaches to deliver clean and affordable renewable energy services to poor rural communities (to date, UNFIP and UNF have supported renewable energy projects totalling $17.6 million); (2) to promote greater energy efficiency through market-oriented policies and programmes (to date, UNFIP and UNF have supported energy efficiency projects totalling $5.3 million); and (3) to promote the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol as a means of assisting developing countries to mitigate climate change by engaging the private sector in promoting investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. To date, UNFIP and UNF have supported Clean Development Mechanism-related capacity-building projects totalling $3 million.

22. Two billion people in the developing world lack access to modern energy services. To help address this problem, UNFIP and UNF are supporting efforts of United Nations partners to demonstrate market-based approaches for providing off-grid renewable energy services to the rural poor. Most of the projects approved to date focus on promoting sustainable energy options for rural communities by building the capacity of local energy service enterprises to offer clean and affordable energy services based on renewable energy technologies. Whenever possible, the provision of renewable energy services is linked to productive use activities that contribute to local income generation.

23. Many approaches to promoting energy efficiency in developing countries have been tried over the past decade. In this context, UNFIP and UNF are working with United Nations partners to support market-based energy efficiency programmes in industrial and residential sectors and to address barriers to increased investment in energy conservation projects. The energy efficiency gains achieved through these initiatives are intended to have economic, social and environmental benefits and represent part of a least-cost climate change abatement strategy. Special emphasis is given to promoting energy efficiency policy reforms by assisting governments to introduce economic, institutional and regulatory changes needed to improve the investment climate.

24. The Clean Development Mechanism is innovative and market-based. It allows industrial countries and private entities to invest in low-cost greenhouse gas abatement opportunities in developing countries and receive credit for resulting emissions reductions. By encouraging investment and stimulating technology transfer of low carbon emission technologies, the mechanism has great potential to assist developing countries to meet their sustainable development needs while also limiting emissions of greenhouse gases which cause climate change. Recognizing this, UNFIP and UNF are supporting the efforts of UNDP, in cooperation with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to support a "learning by doing" approach and building the capacity of select private and public stakeholders, primarily in Brazil, effectively to develop and implement pilot Clean Development Mechanism projects. The project is intended to enhance understanding of the implementation issues and policy frameworks needed for a large-scale introduction of the mechanism.

25. In terms of environmental initiatives supported by UNFIP and UNF that fall outside the frameworks, mention should be made of the Global Reporting Initiative. Established in late 1997, the mission of the Initiative is to develop applicable guidelines for reporting on the economic, environmental and social performance, initially for corporations and eventually for any business, governmental or non-governmental organization. Convened by the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies in partnership with UNEP, the Global Reporting Initiative incorporates the active participation of corporations, NGOs, accountancy organizations, business associations and other stakeholders from around the world. Their Sustainability Reporting Guidelines represent the first global framework for comprehensive sustainability reporting, encompassing the "triple bottom line" of economic, environmental and social issues. By 2002, the Initiative will be established as a permanent, independent, international body with a

multi-stakeholder governance structure. Its core mission will be to maintain, enhance and disseminate the Guidelines through a process of ongoing consultation and stakeholder engagement.

D. Peace, security and human rights

26. In early 2000, the UNFIP Advisory Board and the UNF Board of Directors identified the category "peace, security, and human rights" as the fourth UNFIP and UNF programming area. In December of that year, UNFIP convened a meeting with all relevant United Nations entities to initiate consultations on a general strategy for a programme framework. Efforts to develop a programme framework for this sector were initiated in the summer/fall of 2001. In the light of the events surrounding 11 September 2001 and the resultant changes in the peace, security and human rights area, it was agreed by the UNFIP Advisory Board at its October 2001 meeting to postpone framework formulation until later in 2002.

27. Though the framework is still under development, the peace, security and human rights programme started placing more emphasis on supporting the implementation of the Secretary-General's report on the prevention of armed conflict (A/55/985 and Corr.1), as well as the "Brahimi report". Since mid-2001, the Secretary-General's prevention report has become a key reference point for the peace, security and human rights framework, based on which potential project ideas are evaluated and developed.

28. During 2001, 10 project proposals were approved in the amount of $19 million (see annex), thus bringing the current value of the peace, security and human rights portfolio to some $41 million. Through 2001, 31 projects have been approved, focusing on the following areas: small arms, peace operations, protection of communities from landmines, humanitarian operations, and human rights and preventive action. While support in these areas is provided to institutional capacity-building, emphasis is increasingly placed on field-based activities directly benefiting the target populations, often the war-affected and the most disadvantaged.

29. In respect of small arms, UNFIP and UNF support seeks to enhance advocacy and awareness-raising against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which are the principal means for violence against civilian populations and one of the important obstacles to post-conflict rehabilitation, particularly among children. Two projects approved in 2001 focus on education and target children in post-conflict environments to promote non-violent behaviour, thereby contributing to peace-building and rehabilitation.

30. Supporting the reconciliation process, strengthening good governance, rebuilding communities, enhancing civil society and addressing gender issues are among the most important factors for post-conflict peace-building and the prevention of recurrence of violence and conflict. During 2001, two projects were approved that are aimed at supporting peace-building, both of which attracted substantial co-financing from additional partners and, as such, demonstrated the usefulness of the catalytic potential of UNF and UNFIP.

31. UNFIP and UNF continue to support the strengthening of the Organization's capacity for conflict prevention in such areas as early warning, information analyses, training and policy development. During 2001, particular attention was placed on supporting initiatives to develop tools that benefit the United Nations system as a whole. These included creating a United Nations geographic database, mainstreaming gender perspectives in multilateral peacekeeping mission training and conflict prevention capacity-building, in which the key aim is to mainstream conflict prevention perspectives in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Common Country Assessment and develop policy guidance to the United Nations Development Group. In addition, in view of the special importance given to children and armed conflict in recent years by the international community, UNF and UNFIP provided support to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. In terms of human rights, the one project approved during 2001 focused on supporting community-based initiatives to enhance respect for human rights and encouraging civil society participation and collaboration.

32. The overarching theme for UNF and UNFIP support in peace, security and human rights will continue to be the prevention of armed conflict and violence, and intensified consultations are expected towards the formulation of a programme framework. Further efforts will be made to place stronger emphasis

on strategic, multi-component programmes, rather than specific projects, and focusing on results-oriented, field-based efforts.

E. Monitoring and evaluation

33. The goal of the UNF and UNFIP monitoring and evaluation strategy is to ensure that mechanisms that are in place to track progress towards achieving the goals in each of the major programmes are used in a cost-effective and efficient manner. UNF and UNFIP are guided by the following principles in this endeavour:

(1) Use what is already produced to the greatest extent possible;

(2) Use United Nations entities to the greatest extent possible in monitoring and evaluation — in their own programmes;

(3) Utilize lessons learned for future programming.

34. The UNF and UNFIP monitoring and evaluation strategy also differentiates four separate activities, the first two of which constitute monitoring and the second two evaluation: (1) annual programme progress reporting; (2) financial and budget monitoring and reporting; (3) project-level evaluation of inputs, outputs, outcomes or impact; and (4) programme evaluation of clusters of projects, topics cutting across projects or important to overall UNF and United Nations priorities and institutional strengthening.

35. At the end of 2001, the programme portfolio stood at 222 projects totalling $423 million, involving project activities in 120 countries by 33 United Nations implementing partners. In order to manage the process in an efficient manner and respecting that the responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of each individual project continues to rest with the concerned implementing partners, UNFIP and UNF have chosen a focused strategy in line with the accountability needs of the United Nations system and reporting requirements.

36. In terms of monitoring during 2001, the following activities took place: 137 annual progress reports were analysed, including feedback to implementing partners; semi-annual tracking was carried out of implementation rates based on financial reports and programme feedback to partners; field visits to seven countries by programme officers were undertaken (jointly by implementation partners to those projects either for lessons to be learned for future grant-making and telling a successful United Nations story, or for course correction purposes); 10 portfolio reviews were undertaken with major implementing partners (in these in-depth sessions, the progress of all projects was reviewed and substantive discussions were held on end results to be achieved by the UNF-supported investments); and ongoing virtual contact with project managers and UNFIP programme officers was maintained on progress of projects and results.

37. Since the majority of projects are ongoing, the implementing partner evaluations on completed projects are reviewed for lessons to be learned for future grant-making. In the course of 2002, the focus will be more on a thorough evaluation of clusters of projects designed to address a significant issue within a programme area. Compelling evidence of the impact of UNFIP and UNF-supported projects will be critical to generating additional resources and creating public-private partnerships in support of United Nations causes.

III. Building partnerships

38. In its ongoing efforts to develop new relationships with the private sector and other foundations in support of United Nations causes, UNFIP played a role in the overall activities of the United Nations system on the HIV/AIDS front. In direct response to the Secretary-General's call-to-action, UNFIP engaged in a number of activities leading up to the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS.

39. In connection with the special session, UNFIP organized the meeting between the Secretary-General and representatives of 11 companies and foundations in collaboration with the Global Business Council on HIV/AIDS and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Major commitments were made in support of the Secretary-General's call-to-action to reverse the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the workplace and beyond, including from the Coca-Cola Company, Daimler Chrysler and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

40. In response to the Secretary-General's call-to-action, UNFIP established, in close cooperation with

UNF, a facility for the receipt of contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. It will be recalled that the concept of the Fund was endorsed at the special session on HIV/AIDS. As of 31 December 2001, close to 200 contributions had been received from the private sector, amounting to approximately $440,000. UNFIP assumed the responsibility of becoming the "official" scorekeeper of all pledges and contributions to the Global Fund and ensures their dissemination on a regular basis.

41. In addition to the aforementioned AIDS-related efforts, UNFIP worked closely with the Rockefeller Foundation on the preparations of the launch of the mother-to-child-transmission, plus care for positive mothers initiative. This effort, launched in December 2001 by a group of foundations led by the Rockefeller Foundation, entails the commitment to seek $100 million in contributions for a five-year programme.

42. During 2001, UNFIP facilitated the United Nations network of private sector focal points, based on the Secretary-General's request of July 2000 that all United Nations organizations nominate a private sector focal point. There are now 20 United Nations organizations with private sector or foundation focal points. UNFIP has assisted in facilitating this network by forwarding information on foundations and corporate profiles.

43. In terms of facilitating United Nations partnerships with foundations, UNFIP has expanded United Nations collaboration with foundations, including the Foundation Center, the Council on Foundations, the Philanthropy Roundtable, the Philanthropic Forum and the European Foundation.

44. UNFIP has also been actively involved in creating United Nations partnerships in support of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, it has worked with various United Nations organizations, such as FAO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNSC, the United Nations Volunteers and WHO, to facilitate new partnerships with civil society, especially collaboration at the country level, including with the Corporate Council on Africa, the Aspen Institute, Rotary International, United Way International and HOPE worldwide.

45. The participation of the Executive Director of UNFIP at a number of conferences and meetings, both at Headquarters and overseas, enabled information exchange on the successful UNFIP and UNF partnership as well as on the potential for new United Nations partnerships, thereby raising the visibility of these new initiatives and increasing the awareness of the overall partnership-building efforts of the United Nations.

IV. Funding rounds

46. The ninth and tenth funding rounds organized in 2001 resulted in new approvals of $105.7 million; the UNF Board of Directors also considered and approved three requests intersessionally amounting to $6.2 million, bringing the total of grants approved for the year to $111.9 million.

47. During the ninth funding round, the UNFIP secretariat received a total of 64 project proposals, 35 of which were submitted to the UNFIP Advisory Board for its consideration. On 1 March 2001, the Board reviewed the proposals and endorsed all of them for recommendation to the UNF Board of Directors. On 12 and 13 March 2001, the Board of Directors of UNF announced the approval of 36 grants totalling $70.6 million. The breakdown by theme was as follows: $23.4 million for children's health, $30.2 million for environment, $9 million dollars for population and women, $6 million for peace, security and human rights and $1.9 million under other.

48. A total of 96 project proposals were reviewed by the UNFIP secretariat for the tenth funding round, 23 of which were submitted to the UNFIP Advisory Board for its consideration. On 16 October 2001, the Board reviewed the proposals and endorsed all of them for recommendation to the UNF Board of Directors, which in November approved a total of 17 grants amounting to $35.1 million. The breakdown by theme was as follows: $9.4 million dollars for population and women, $8.8 million for children's health, $8.2 million for peace, security and human rights, $5.9 million for environment and $2.8 million under other.

V. Operational and financial arrangements

49. UNF and UNFIP maintain close consultations and cooperation in decisions regarding projects and relationships with partners. Frequent conferences are held with United Nations implementing partners, NGO implementing partners and donors in order to address

concerns of the parties and ensure the full participation of all stakeholders in decision-making. UNFIP held general and special-purpose meetings with United Nations focal points to ensure continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest, hold portfolio reviews and provide feedback on prospective project proposals.

50. Updated project guidelines were issued in October 2001 to assist United Nations implementing partners in making submissions that meet funding requirements, including a results-based approach to monitor more effectively the progress and impact of project activities.

51. UNFIP also developed the specifications for a systems application design that will enhance its capacity to track project implementation and funds flows. One of the features involves streamlining the financial reporting modalities of implementing partners utilizing web-based information technology capabilities in order to reduce the overall workload of reporting to UNFIP and enhancing the accuracy and timeliness of submissions.

52. In response to comments by the Board of Auditors, the Fund introduced new policies for calculating entitlements of implementing partners to cash advances predicated on two factors: satisfactory progress in utilizing funds already advanced and up-to-date progress and financial reporting. In addition, UNFIP acquired the equipment to expedite the processing of funding requests.

VI. Conclusions

53. **Working closely with the United Nations system and with the guidance of its Advisory Board, the UNFIP secretariat encouraged the design of yet more targeted and strategic proposals. UNF funding in 2001 proved useful both in support of ongoing programme cycles of United Nations entities and was a catalyst for necessary action at the field level. In this latter respect, UNFIP and UNF have been able to facilitate United Nations country team projects. In 2002, the UNFIP and UNF partnership will be entering its fifth year of operation. As such, efforts will be geared towards carefully assessing the current programme priorities and possibly refining the programme frameworks.**

54. **UNFIP will continue to promote potential new United Nations partnerships and alliances and fund-raising options, including in connection with UNF and UNFIP programme areas and projects. It is anticipated that this facilitating role, intended to bring new and additional resources to the United Nations family, will continue. In this respect, UNFIP is guided by the Secretary-General's ongoing programme of reform and the Millennium Development Goals.**

Annex

Projects funded by the United Nations Foundation by programme area

	As at 31 December 2000		*Approvals in 2001*		*Totals*		*Contributed by*	
Programme area	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Number of projects*	*Value (United States dollars)*	*Other donors*	*United Nations Foundation*
Children's health	36	128 587 108	9	32 214 800	45	160 801 908	69 484 000	91 317 908
Population and women	57	91 018 698	10	18 423 053	67	109 441 751	9 270 000	100 171 751
Environment	44	60 820 626	22	36 840 795	66	97 661 421	14 725 000	82 936 421
Peace, security and human rights	21	21 849 217	10	19 220 920	31	41 070 137	19 220 920	21 849 217
Other	9	8 848 125	4	5 212 683	13	14 060 808	5 212 683	8 848 125
Total	**167**	**311 123 774**	**55**	**111 912 251**	**222**	**423 036 025**	**117 912 603**	**305 123 422**